



# City Administrator's Report

October 2003

Dear Reader,

*This monthly report summarizes and provides updates on major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to give us your comments and suggestions.*

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## Key Meetings:

October 7, 14, 21, 28      Council Meetings

## Flags on State Street:

October 1-8	Ensemble Theatre
October 8-21	CAMA (Community Arts Music Association)
October 22-31	Fighting Back – Santa Barbara Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse

## Community Events:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| October 4        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mental Health Arts Festival, De la Guerra Plaza, 2-8 p.m., (805) 898-0129</li><li>▪ Powerlifting Tournament, Santa Barbara Special Olympics, East Beach Promenade, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., (805) 884-1516</li><li>▪ Heart &amp; Sole AIDS Walk, Leadbetter Beach, 9 a.m., (805) 963-3636</li></ul> |
| October 8-Nov. 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Flamenco Arts Festival, various downtown venues, <a href="http://www.flamencoarts.org">www.flamencoarts.org</a>, (805) 967-4164</li></ul>   |
| October 10-11    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ SB Gay Pride Festival, De la Guerra Plaza, Fri. 6 p.m. – 11 p.m. and Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., (805) 884-2972</li></ul>   |
| October 11-12    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Italian Festival - Earl Warren Showgrounds, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (805) 565-2968</li></ul>   |
| October 11       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. (805) 564-5531</li><li>▪ DAWG Faire (Dog Adoption Welfare Group), Mackenzie Park, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., (805) 681-0561</li></ul>  |
| October 13       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Resident Discount Card Rollout (ongoing) at Parks and Recreation offices, (805) 564-5418</li></ul>  |
| October 18       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ MS Bike Tour &amp; Fest, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Leadbetter Beach, call for times: (805) 682-8783</li><li>▪ 21st Annual South Coast Sustainable Landscape Fair,</li></ul>  |

- October 19-25 Alameda Park, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., (805) 564-5460  
▪ Teen Read Week at all Santa Barbara branch libraries, (805) 962-7653
- October 25 ▪ American Heart Walk & Run, Chase Palm Park, 9 -10:30 a.m., (805) 963-8862
- October 26 ▪ Children's Costume Parade & Family Festival, PEP (Postpartum Education for Parents), De la Guerra Plaza, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. (805) 564-3888

## **City Administrator**

### **Granada Garage**

The City of Santa Barbara is seeking a new firm to design the Granada Garage, and has filed a lawsuit against Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA), the firm originally retained to design the downtown parking structure. The lawsuit alleges that WSA breached its contractual agreement by not producing a design that could be built within the budget specified in the contract. The city's plans call for construction to start in fall 2004.

### **Jury returns verdict in city's favor**

Jurors in a 9-3 vote found in favor of the City of Santa Barbara in a sexual orientation, discrimination suit filed by a former Public Works Department employee. The employee, who quit his job after filing the suit, claimed that he was passed over for promotion because of his sexual orientation. The city is reviewing its hiring process, which was strongly criticized by the jury.

### **Just the facts**

Color copies of "*City of Santa Barbara Facts*," the city's fact sheet, are now available for download from the city's Web site under **Forms and Handouts**. Or use this link: <http://www.ci.santa-barbara.ca.us/documents/>

Printed copies of the fact sheet – which is updated annually – will be available in November. The document includes general statistics about Santa Barbara such as demographics, current city budget, department phone numbers, visitor information, major employers, local universities, and other city facts.

### **City-TV, Channel 18**

October's edition of "Inside Santa Barbara" premieres Oct. 4 at 9 p.m. Segments include: Pollution Prevention Week; Laguna Cottages for Seniors; The Sustainability Project's recent information gathering trip to Portland, Oregon; and DAWG – The Dog Adoption and Welfare Group. Weekly airtimes: Mondays at 8 p.m., Tuesdays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9 p.m., Sundays at 10:30 p.m.

**Good fun for a good cause**

The annual Charitable Giving Campaign encourages City of Santa Barbara employees to help improve the community by donating time or money to a non-profit group of their choice. Employee representatives are now scheduling presentations by United Way, Earthshare, and Combined Health Appeals for every city department, which will include a video prepared by City-TV Channel 18. Clever, donated door prizes – from tee-shirts, to coveted parking spaces, to a one-hour lunch with the city administrator and mayor – will be raffled off at each presentation.

**Small business seminar**

The non-profit Federal Technology Center (FTC) is conducting a free seminar, “Intro to Federal Contracting,” at Santa Barbara City Hall on Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to noon. FTC promotes economic development by helping small businesses compete successfully for federal, state, and local government contracts. To attend the seminar, local businesses must pre-register online at [www.theftc.org](http://www.theftc.org), or call (916) 334-9388.

**Airport Department****Passenger count soars for second straight month**

In August, historically the busiest month of the year for Santa Barbara Airport (SBA), 74,890 passengers flew in and out of SBA – a 7.8% increase over the same month last year. The Denver and Las Vegas non-stop routes had the highest passenger capacity averaging 90%, followed by Portland at 86%, and San Francisco at 76% of full capacity. The year-to-date passenger count is up 1.4% over the same eight-month period in 2002.

**Airline terminal fees increase**

Airlines serving SBA operate under Airline Operating Permits, paying rental rates for airline terminal space of \$58.51/sq. ft., and landing fees for aircraft weight of \$1.76/thousand lbs., adjusted annually. Rental rates are based on building maintenance, utility, custodial, and security expenses. Landing fees include the cost of aircraft rescue and fire fighting services, airport patrol, noise abatement, and airfield maintenance. These permit revenues allow the airport to recover direct costs of capital investment or development, maintenance, and operations. Fiscal year 2004 permit rates increased 11.5% for airline terminal space, and 8% for landing fees. Airport staff met with representatives of all airlines serving (SBA) prior to adopting the new rates and charges.

**Passenger feedback**

Responses to a May survey of 634 airline passengers to measure customer satisfaction indicated that 75% of all air trips within the last year were taken from SBA. Passengers were more satisfied with the frequency of airline departures than with the number of non-stop destinations – prior to the addition of Portland and Seattle. Survey findings will be presented at the Oct. 15 Airport Commission Meeting.

**Buildings bite the dust**

Three old buildings located off Hollister Ave. on the 15-acre site designated for the Santa Barbara Gateway Project were demolished last month. The buildings were uninhabitable and posed a vandalism/graffiti nuisance. Built in 1942, the structures were part of the Marine Corps Air Station that supported U.S. military operations in WWII. They were used as a propeller shop, aircraft accessories structure, and a parachute loft during the war. A qualified architectural historian documented the buildings for historic purposes under the Airport's Specific Plan process.

**Community Development Department****Development review**

Major projects moving forward this month include an environmental scoping hearing on the Draft Housing Element Update. Staff at this time anticipates preparing a Negative Declaration. The Planning Commission hearing was held on Oct. 2.

On Oct. 9, the Planning Commission will consider a small annexation at 500 N. La Cumbre Ave; and on Oct. 16, will consider renewal of the Conditional Use Permit for the Downtown Farmers' Markets.

**Public reviews begin**

The Cottage Hospital Specific Plan and the Veronica Meadows Specific Plan will both begin public review periods to determine the scopes of their Environmental Impact Reports (EIR). The public hearing to take public comment on the contents of the EIR for Veronica Meadows is set for Oct. 16. The Cottage Hospital hearing is tentatively set for Oct. 30.

**Finance Department****Sales tax growth**

Sales tax numbers for the quarter ended June 30, 2003 were up 0.5% from the same quarter of the previous year, marking two consecutive quarters of growth.

Since the State of California advances the city based on estimates, most of these revenues were already recorded in fiscal year 2003. So there is little budget impact to the current fiscal year 2004. However, this provides us with good information from an economic perspective.

Quarter Ended	Calendar 2001	Change from Prior Year	Calendar 2002	Change from Prior Year	Calendar 2003	Change from Prior Year
Mar 31	\$4,018,983	-0.5%	\$3,915,141	-2.6%	\$4,016,831	2.6%
June 30	\$4,527,263	3.4%	\$4,349,512	-3.9%	<b>\$4,373,358</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Sept 30	\$4,407,462	-3.7%	\$4,556,500	3.4%		
Dec 31	\$4,646,788	-0.2%	\$4,548,826	-2.1%		
Total	\$17,600,496		\$17,369,979			

**Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)**

The table shows August TOT is up approximately 1.7% from the prior fiscal year. We now have two consecutive months of growth, and a fiscal year-to-date growth of approximately 1.5%. August was the largest-month-ever collection in terms of actual dollars.

	FY 2002	Change from Prior Year	FY 2003	Change from Prior Year	FY 2004	Change from Prior Year
July	\$1,171,041	-2.8%	\$1,183,951	1.1%	\$1,198,952	1.3%
August	\$1,276,212	2.3%	\$1,328,278	4.1%	<b>\$1,351,000</b>	<b>1.7%</b>

**Fire Department****Fire season arsenal**

Two air tankers have now been assigned to the Santa Barbara City Airport for use in the local mountains. Although this year's wildland fire season is winding down in the northern part of the country, Southern California is just now entering the most critical phase of its fire season.

**Procedures go digital**

Transferring the Fire Department's Standard Operating Procedures to an electronic format has eliminated the need for hard copies, which take about three feet of space on bookshelves at each fire station. Staff time, as well as the cost of updating the documents, will now be greatly reduced.

**Library Department****Slammin' @ the library**

A SLAM poetry competition between local high school teams will be held at 6 p.m. at the Central Library on Oct. 22. SLAM poetry is all about performance and community. Local teen poets will "perform" their own poems, giving the audience their unique take on life. The program is open to anyone interested in SLAM poetry and in encouraging creative teens.

**Parks and Recreation Department****Get carded, save money**

Beginning January 1, 2004, city residents will be eligible to receive discounts of up to 20% on designated activities, programs, and facility rentals offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. To qualify for the discount, individuals must prove city residency (with a CA driver's license or I.D. card), and obtain a Resident Discount Card from various department locations. Rollout week begins Oct. 13 at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office, Carrillo Recreation Center, Cabrillo Pavilion Bathhouse, and the Franklin Community Center. Mayor Marty Blum will kick off the discount program on Oct. 8 at 10 a.m., at 620 Laguna Street, where she will receive her Resident Discount Card. For information on the Resident Discount Program: visit [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com), or call (805) 564-5418.

**Keeping the ball in play**

As a cost savings measure for the city, the Parks and Recreation Department is looking to transfer the adult softball program as a contracted service – possibly with the Santa Barbara Softball Club. A Softball Committee comprised of local softball players, representatives from the Santa Barbara Softball Club, Park and Recreation Commission, city council liaisons, and city staff will begin meeting in October. The committee will develop contractual options, solicit and review proposals from interested organizations, and make a recommendation to the department so that the transition can take effect in July 2004.

**Green thumbs up**

The Parks and Recreation Department assumed management of the city's three Community Gardens from the Community Environmental Council in July. Community Services, assisted by the Parks Division, will oversee the administration and upkeep of the Yanonali, Rancheria and Pilgrim Terrace gardens. Since each garden is located next to a community center, this program is a great addition to the mix of social services and community building programs for neighborhood residents. Meetings with interested gardeners will be held in October to discuss garden operations and solicit input. Rancheria Gardens will close briefly for renovations similar to those at Yanonali last winter, which included general clean up and a new irrigation system. For information: call Antonio Velasquez at (805) 963-7567.

**House “Boo” tiful**

The Haunted House is returning to town on Oct. 24 and 25, with Halloween fun for the entire family. Volunteers, actors, monsters, and carpenters are needed to help design and populate the haunted corridors sponsored by the Santa Barbara Youth Council and Teen Programs. Community service hours are available to student volunteers. Volunteer meetings are held each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center. For information: call Cyrus Alexander at Teen Programs, (805) 897-2650.

**Franceschi Park**

The Park and Recreation Commission meets on Oct. 22 to formally approve the Negative Declaration for Franceschi Park. Future actions required for this project include: Park and Recreation Commission and City Council approval of the Franceschi Park Master Plan; Historic Landmarks Commission approval of alterations to historic site and structure; and Architectural Board of Review of proposed structures and landscaping.

The Park and Recreation Commission met with the Planning Commission on Sept. 18 for an environmental hearing to receive comments on the Draft Negative Declaration for the Franceschi Park Master Plan project.

**Trees pruned for street sweeping**

Tree pruning for the East Side Street Sweeping Program was completed on schedule, before the street sweeping begins in these neighborhoods on Oct. 6. Progressive Care, a Santa Barbara tree maintenance firm, was awarded the contract for the pruning work. Pruning of 800 trees provided the 14-foot clearance needed for the street sweeper, plus low limb removal for the parking signs. Tree work will begin on the West Side to prune more than 1,700 trees for street sweeper clearance.

**Water clean-up**

"The Ocean Begins on Your Street" Annual Water Quality Forum will be held on Oct. 8, from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Public Library's Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu Street. Displays and exhibits will illustrate household hazardous waste disposal, erosion control, car care, and landscaping with native plants. Updates on city and county water quality projects will be available. For information: call (805) 897-2658.

**Police Department****Emergency services**

A dramatic transformation of the Police Department's Combined Communications Center during August and September will allow for more effective, efficient emergency services to the community. The project took more than a year and a half to plan, cost upwards of \$250,000 in California State awarded funds, and replaced all consoles, 9-1-1-telephone equipment, and flooring. Communications Center Staff continued serving the community throughout the entire, four-phase project.

**Murder suspect arrested**

Twenty-year-old Maria Leticia Villatoro was found shot to death in her vehicle near Houston, Texas on Aug. 1. Her 3-year-old and 18-month-old daughters had been abducted. Harris County Sheriff's Department issued a warrant for Villatoro's 21-year-old ex-common law husband, who is also the children's father. The FBI joined the investigation due to the kidnapping and the suspect's possible interstate flight to avoid prosecution.

On Aug. 2, Santa Barbara Police were alerted by the FBI that the suspect, possibly armed and considered dangerous, might be enroute to Santa Barbara with the two children on a Greyhound bus – arriving in 10 minutes. Officers confirmed that the suspect was on the bus, deployed SWAT team members, and pinpointed his and the children's seating location through communication with the bus driver. When the bus arrived, one officer grabbed the children as another officer arrested the suspect. The children remained safe during the incident. Later, the suspect confessed to a Santa Barbara detective, admitting to kidnapping the victim and children at gunpoint, having the victim drive them to a location in Harris County, and then shooting the victim three times in the chest with a .45 caliber handgun in front of his children. He admitted to then driving the dead victim in her car to another location, taking his children and fleeing the state. The full confession obtained in Santa Barbara will qualify as a murder capital case in the state of Texas.

**Doing good in the neighborhood**

Patrol officers responded last month to several complaints of gang members causing problems and "tagging" bridges, walls, and trees in the 1200 block of Cacique Street. Officer Alvarado organized a meeting of neighborhood residents to answer their many questions. The Public Works Department eliminated overgrown vegetation and performed a general clean-up of the area. The Special Enforcement Team and beat-one officers have also been asked to give the area extra patrol. Residents are appreciative of the intervention, and now feel safer in their neighborhood.

## **Public Works Department**

### **Facelift for city streets**

The current Slurry Seal Project will improve areas around Bishop Diego High School, the Riviera, and Cottage Hospital north of Mission Street. Slurry seal provides a new wearing surface to protect the streets for five to seven years. The work includes repairing potholes, bad pavement areas, and cracked sealing before the slurry is placed. Slurry work will be completed before Thanksgiving.

### **21st Annual South Coast Sustainable Landscape Fair**

Get ideas for resource-efficient landscapes through exhibits, tours, and demonstrations. Experts will answer landscaping questions, and share tips on how to reduce water, fertilizer, and pesticides while increasing the health and beauty of your landscape. Alameda Park at the corner of Micheltorena and Santa Barbara Streets (across the street from Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden), 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Oct. 18. For information: call (805) 564-5460. Free admission.

### **Foot traffic**

Two more sidewalk project designs are nearing completion: one will add new sidewalks, parkway landscaping, and access ramps; another will repair existing sidewalks and construct additional access ramps. Scheduled to go out to bid in October, both projects are part of the city's Annual Pedestrian Facilities Improvement Program.

### **Environmentally friendly motor pool**

Motor Pool has recently installed three, environmentally friendly water-based parts cleaners to replace five, solvent-based parts washers. To help offset the costs of the new parts cleaners, Motor Pool received \$2,850 from the County of Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District's rebate program, which helps automotive repair shops in the area eliminate the use of polluting solvent-based cleaners – resulting in fewer volatile organic compounds that pollute the air.

Instead of cleaning automotive and equipment parts by manually scrubbing the parts with solvent, the new parts washers are hands-free and solvent-free. Technicians can walk away and continue their work while the parts are being cleaned. Since the cleaning solution contains no environmentally harmful solvents, this is a much safer and efficient parts cleaning alternative.

## **Waterfront Department**

### **Heavy metal**

A large anchor weighing in at six tons was recovered from an area roughly 430 feet from Stearns Wharf and 170 feet from shore – at a depth of 31 feet and encrusted with barnacles. The discovery was made during an ocean floor debris removal project in May. Measuring 17 feet long, 13 feet in cross-arms length, and with a base spanning four to five feet, the anchor has been cleaned and relocated to the Harbor Entrance near the Breakwater Restaurant. Future plans include Waterfront Department working with Santa Barbara Maritime Museum to try and determine anchor type, era, use, and to create an informational plaque.